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(flight surgeon member)

CO; N. S CORRY FIELD, TG-2, AAR 12-57

PART V. THE ACCIDENT

SNJ 2C-253, Bund 112278 departed Na.S CORRY FIELD at approximately 1010 CST, on Tuesday, 23 April 1957. The flight was a precision two (2) solo training syllabus flight. The pilot was NewCad George Windsow CHIHULY. Following take-off and climbout, the student pilot intended to perform regular syllabus mane yver, which included wing-overs and Chandelles for high work, and several touch and go landings at OIF, Choctaw. It is assumed that regular syllabus maneuvers were practiced until the aircraft entered a spin and spun to the earth, crashed and burned.

PART VI. DALLGE TO THE AIRCR FT

Damages sustained as a result of the crush were classified ALFA. Impact damage was severe, however, fire following impact caused additional damage and burned the fuselage and right wing to complete destruction. The unburned items were the left wing, which was severely buckled and wrinkled; the engine, which was buried deep in the sand; and the pitot tube that was driven full length into the earth. The fire resulted from an accumulation of fuel in a low area, ditch line of a road, underneath the right wing. All fuel cells were ruptured on impact. The engine was turned in to NAS, Pensacola, O & R. for DIR. The remaining wrockage was turned in to MAS, Pensacola for salvage.

PART VIY. THE INVESTIGATION

- .. The flight was scheduled and authorized. The flight was a Precision Stage two (2) solo flight.
- B. The flight started at approximately 1010 CST, Tuesday, 23 pril 1957 at Nius CORRY FIELD, in an SNJ-6 Side Number 20-253, BuNo 112278, and ended 4.59 Miles South of Bagdad, Florida. The bearing and distance from N. S CORRY FIELD was 053°17 miles. The exact location is in NE 2 SE 2 Sect. 2 Range 28 West Township 1 South in a tract known as N & of Govit. Lot No. 7.

Cont'd on next page

PART VII. THE INVESTIGATION, Cont'd

- C. The total flight time was approximately 39 Minutes.
- D. The pilot made the routine solo radio check with N. S CORRY tower prior to leaving the chocks. This was the last transmission received by N. S CORRY from this aircraft. A check of tower tapes revealed no transmissions from 20-203 following the solo radio check.
- E. The next known event during the flight was observed by an Instructor LTJG

 (b) (6)

 and his flight student

 (b) (6)

 and student were at 5,000 ft. in slow flight on an eastely heading when 2C-253 spun by them.

 (b) (6)

 took control of his aircraft and followed 2C-253. It 3,500 ft. (b) (6)

 reported to H. S S. UPLEY that an SNJ was spinning in and would hit any minute. The SNJ continued to spin. (b) (6)

 and student related that CHIHULY was erect in the cockpit, and that the cockpit canopy was closed. There apparently was no attempt made to recover from the spin. (b) (6)

 did not observe the actual impact as at that instant the spinning aircraft was underneath the wing of the observing aircraft. The SNJ, 2C-253, struck the earth in a normal spin and shortly thereafter burned.
- F. (b) (6) remained at 1,000 ft. until S.R. aircraft arrived.
- G. The canopy of 2C-253 was closed throughout the spin according to cye witnesses, and according to all indications revealed upon investigation.
- H. The aircraft struck the ground in a spin with an angle of impact of approximately 75° with an attitude of 75° mose low as indicated by the wing chord relative to the road bed upon which it rested, and angle of the pitot tube that buried in the sand completely to the leading edge of the wing. The pitot tube was driven into the ground with little evidence of twisting or rotation. At the one (1) ft. and a quarter (.25) in point from tip end of the pitot tube, the degree of bend due to aircraft rotation was 1.5° increasing to 2.5° then smoothing out again. Contid on next Page.

P.RT VII. THE INVESTIGATION, Cont'd

This information roughly checks with data reported by NACA. Tech Note 2485 of OCT 1951. For a similar weight aircraft in a steep spin the forward velocity during a steedy spin is 211 ft./sec. while the rotation rate is .41 rotations per second. Proportioning this to the three (3) ft. length of the pitot tube, the degree of rotation for that distance of forward travel would be approximately 2.10. The wing span, the increment of rotation per foor, etc., have not been considered in this proportion. The tangent of 2.10 times the span of the win, equals roughly the distance that the left wing moved following initial impact on the readbed. This distance measures and computes to be approximately 9.2 inches. The significance of the proportion is that the rotation rate is only 0.1% of the forward velocity compared on a time lasis. This would. explain the lack of bending in the pitot tube and the relatively small area covered by the wreckege. The major portion of the wreckage was found primarily in the parameters of the SNJ for a 75° attitude impact. Small objects such as bits of plexiglass were spread in an arc to the right of the point of impact. The wind at the time of impact was 30° left of the aircraft heading at impact. The wind had little effect in the distribution pattern.

- I. The pilot was thrown clear of the wrockage. The body was 11 ft. from the cockpit on a relative bearing of 26.5° degrees right.
- J. Although fire consumed most of the circraft, the clothing of the pilot was not burned which indicates that fire occurred following the impact. Other evidence also pointed out that fire occurred following impact and not in flight.
- K. From best information and investigation, the aircraft was intact on impact.
- L. The existing control cables were intect, however, some were hadly burned, mixed in with melted aluminum, and slipped from shive and control surfaces as a result of the impact forces and ensuing fire. Contid on next Page

PART VII. THE INVESTIGATION, Cont'd

M. The first people to arrive at the scene were two farmers a Mr. O. H. POTTS,

ond Mr. Buck LAEP.RD, (b) (6

The farmers have some knowledge of aircraft as both had worked for the Navy or Air Force at one time or another during the past two wars. The farmers noted the position of the crash and the fact that the pilot was clear of the crash and beyond help. They checked the crash for a second pilot but could not determine whether a second pilot was in the crash due to the intensity of the gasoline fire burning in the area of right wing and empennage. The farmers then took charge of the scene and attempted to keep sight seers out of the area of the crash until the S.R helicopter arrived. Mr. LEEPARD then returned to his home but Mr. POTIS remained at the scene for the remainder of day and rendered valuable assistance to the investigating parties.

- N. Crash and Fire trucks were dispetched from N .S WHITING FI LD. The fire was extinguished by these crews and their equipment.
- O. Ambulance and crew arrived from N. S WHITING and handled all the personal details concerning the pilot. Two Flight Surgeons were with this crew.
- P. A Flight Surgeon, an aviation Safety Officer, and a photographer arrived at the scene from N. S CORRY FIELD approximately 45 minutes following the crash. The investigation began while the Flight Surgeon assisted the Flight Surgeon's from Whiting Field.
- Q. N.JS ELLYSON FIELD supplied a Helicopter for transportation. This assistance was invaluable as the location of the occurrence was approximately 25 miles if from NAAS CORRY FIELD by land routes.
- R. Additional assistance from N. S COMRY FIELD arrived by automobile.
- S. State Patrol and local Milton Shore Patrol arrived at the scene approximately 40 minutes following the crash. These forces were of great assistance in handling the flew of traffic, and the curtailment of inquisitive such scers in picking up pieces of the wreckage, etc.

Page 7 of 15 Pages

PART II. THE INVESTIGATION, Cont'd

T. The heading of the aircraft on impact was 210° (M). This reading was also found on the directional gyra from the front cockpit.

U. The attitude of aircraft on impact was nose low (75°), slightly right wing low. The point of impact was a road shoulder and ditch line with the low side to the right side of the aircraft.

- V. Safety devices utilized were H-3 helment, parachute, and possibly got les.

 Position of the shoulder harness in the back seat was definitely locked and
 secured as required on solo flights. The shoulder straps in the front seat were
 apparently locked but not in position across the shoulders nor in the locking
 hardware of the seat belt. One shoulder strap was found almost complete. This
 one showed no evidence of strain other than cuts and burns incurred

 from impact damage and fire. The front seat belt hardware was found in opposite
 positions in the accessory section of the engine, which indicates they were
 unfastened. The pilot was not secured in the seat by seat belt and shoulder straps

 W. Investigation of the wrockage revealed the following:
- (1) All control surfaces were attached to the aircraft at time of impact.

 The full surfaces were not available as they had been consumed by the fire.
 - (2) The wheels land flaps were in the UP position.
- (3) The conopy was in the fully closed position. The hand grip of the conopy opening latch was found under the body at scene. (b) (6)

(See Medical Officer Report)

- (4) The fuel selector valve in the rear cockpit was on the LEFT tank, however the gas selector valve was broken indicating dearge on impact. The selector valve in the front cockpit was on the Reserve position.
- . (5) There was no evidence of structural failure or engine malfunction.
 - (6) Trim settings were- 1230 O'clock rudder, 0300 O'clock alevator.
 - (7) Both instrument penals were found and the re-dings were:
 - (a) Airspeed approximately 130 knots. Cont'd on next Page.

 Page 8 of 15 Pages

FART VII. THE INVESTIGATION, Cont'd

- (b) Fuel pressure undetermined
- (c) Fuel quantity undetermined although sufficient to eause extensive fire damage.
- (d) Goar and Flap indicators UP
- (c) Manifold pressure 32 in Hg.
- (f) RPM 2,075 turns per minute
- (g) Turning rate Front cockpit read two needle width, rear cockpit read fully pegged, both deflected to the right.
- (h) Rate of Climb/Descent Undet rmined. Black light showed some indications of a reading at climb 1800 fpm. This could be a reverse reading provided the needle in the descent could by-pass the peg. In this case the rate of descent would have read 12,000 fpm. The time from 5,000 ft. altitude to the deck was about 25 seconds as derived from the NLAS Saufley Tower recording tape. This computes at the same rate of descent.
- (i) The front cuckpit clock stupped at 1049 CST.
- (j) Hydraulic pressure gauge 500 psi (loss of hydraulic press; and impact damage caused this reading as the needle is actually spring loaded and would peg if no press in lines).
- (k) Magneto Switch OFF Reason undetermined
- (1) Throttle, Mixture, Propelldr Forward, prop at 1950 RPM position
- (m) VHF Radio control box Channel FIVE (5), Roceive on GULRD
- (8) (b) (6

b) (6)

(b) (6)

however, the pilot was in good realth and had eaten regular meals. There was no way of determining presence of hyper-ventilation and whether or not it was a factor involved. Contid on next Page

PART VII. THE INVESTIGATION, Cont'd

- (9) Wreckage distribution is portrayed in attached pictures and the wreckage diagram.
- X. Engine Disassembly Inspection and Report is not available at this time. Supplementary information will be forwarded as applicable.
- Y. Examination of NavCad CHIHULY's flight progress records reveals the following:
 - (1) Total flying hours were 58.0 of which 13.5 were solo.

 Total flight time in SNJ; 19.8 of which 17.9 was dual.

 Primary time in the T-34 was 38.2 of which 11.6 were solo.
- (2) Overall numerical flight training grade was 3.098 which comprises the following: T-34 T-34 Pre-Solo 3.13 Hrs solo 11.6 30 flights total Pracision 3.13 Hrs. dual 26.6 SNJ SNJ Transition 3.06 Hrs. sol 1.9 Precisi n 3.07 Hrs. dual 17.9 5 1 / 15 fits
 - (3) Grade based on 3.00 as being average.

Additional comments considered:

Z. Communications during this occident were poor. The Corry Tower received meager details from Saufley Tower. An incorrect side number was reported which did not check with any circraft assigned to Numbs Corry. Follow up information to Numbs. Whiting was by telephone to the Aviation Safety Office from the Corry Safety Office. Aircraft at the scene of the accident did not zoom the crash crew at OIF, Bagdad which delayed the arrival of the nearest fire fighting equipment.

Total time in flight was not sufficient to burn dry any tank provided normal comesumption and no leaks present.

Landings are not recorded at OLF, Bagdad, therefore it was not possible to check on the possibility of this aircraft having been in that landing pattern. Sand bag ballast was not positively identified in wreckage.

P.RT VIII. THE ANALYSIS

- A. NavCad CHIHULY was on an authorized flight in an authorized area at the time of the accident.
- B. The crash site was established at 4.59 miles South of the Bagdad School, in the city of Bagdad, Florida, along highway State 191, commonly called the "Bay Point Road". The crash was on the West side of the road and contained within the highway right of way.
- C. The pilot was positively identified as NavCud George Windsor CHIHULY, (b) (6) USNR, through finger prints, dental inspection, I. D. photo emperison, and flight schedule information from BTG-2.
- D. NavCad CHIRULY was airborne approximately 39 minutes. The time of impact registered by the stopped cockpit clock was 1049 CST. The autopsy report, however, stated that death occurred at 1040 CST.
- E. Weather at the scene was scattered cumulus, visibility unlimited, wind 160° to 170° at 15 to 18 km ts.
- F. The aircraft was first observed at 5,000 ft. above the area of crash, in a normal spin to the right.
- G. The pilot was erect in the seat, the canopy was closed. No apparent attempt to recover from the spin was observed.
- H. The aircraft was under observation until just prior to impact, at which time it was lost under the wing of the observing aircraft that was executing a spiral in an attempt to keep contact with the spinning SNJ.
- I. There was no apparent malfunction of the engine, and no apparent structural failure prior to initial contact with the ground.
- J. The aircraft struck at a high rate of descent, at an attitude of 75° nose low and an angle of impact of 75° with an approximate air speed of 130 knots and in a clean configuration. Cont'd on next Page

PART VIII. THE ANALYSIS, Sont to

K. The impact force ruptured the fuel cells and spilled the caseling into the ditch line where fire occurred and caused extreme damage to the wreckage. The impact forces also ruptured the fuselege. The pilot was threw clear of the wreckage (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

The can py rolease handle was broken at 3.5 inches from the end of the handle.

the handle on impact. The broken part of the handle was underneath the body of the pilot. Evidently an attempt to leave the aircraft was in progress but altitude and time had run out. The indications of the shoulder harness and seat belt being unfestence also support the idea that a bail out attempt was in progress or had been attempted and aborted. Had the shoulder harness been securely fastened, however, the pilot in all probability would have sufferred ALFA injuries.

L. The aircraft was spinning, a maneuver which is not a part of a P-2 solo flight. Whether the spin was accidental or intentional is not known. The instruments, throttle quadrant, and other details revealed during investigation indicate a power on spin which is definitely not a part of the syllabus and would therefore be presumed as accidental.

M. The parachute was on the pilot and was cut free to extricate the body. The "D" ring was not in place but evidently had been displaced during impact. No evidence of an attempt to utilize the chute was found as the second locking pin was still in place.

N. The speed in impact has been determined by ultra violet light reading at the Overhaul and Repair Department, NAS, Pensacola, Florida, as 130 km at indicated. The reading was not positive as from had removed most f the flu rescent material from the dial. Contid in next Page

O. The engine was at approximately 2075 rpm at the time of impact. This reading is also from ultra violet light. The propeller blade angle as determined by 0 & L. NAS, Pensacola was 15 degrees. Investigation at 0 & R revealed no indication of propoverspeed or mal-function.

- P. As far as can be determined, the aircraft was functioning properly and normally under spinning conditions at the time of the crash.
- Q. A sand bag in the aircraft was not positively identified, therefore the spin characteristics of an SNJ without ballast in the luggage compartment is now under study and should information pertinent to the determination of the cause of this accident be revealed, a supplementary report will be forwarded.
- II. The location of the crash along the rold is coincidental or by chance. No attempt to land was in progress. This is the acrobatic area above 5,000 ft. for SNJ's unfortunately most of the area is over water with the one peninsula in the middle. This land provides ground reference for the prientation of maneuvers. This is the most likely reason that the pilot was in the area.
- S. No reports of mid-air collisions or near misses have been reported since the occurrence, and is therefore not considered a factor.
- T. NavCad CHIHULY, by all established criteria, was an average to ab we flight student, and had no mental or physical problems which would render him unfit for the actual control of aircraft.
- U. The SAR facilities utilized were considered adequate on this occasion.
- V. The nearest fire fighting and rescue equipment station, at OLF, Bggdad and MAAS WHITING FIELD's, were not informed of the fact that a crash had occurred as expeditiously as should have been and consequently were delayed in their arrival the scene.

CO, N AS CORRY FIELD, BrG-2, AR 12-57

PART IX. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions:

- 1. The primary cause of the accident is undetermined.
- 2. A probable cause of the accident is a combination of a lack of experience and some degree of unfamiliarity with the type aircraft coupled with possible anxiety reactions when the pilot was faced with this situation, The spin most likely occurred while practicing acrobatics. The forward directional gyro being uncaged and on an approximate heading of the aircraft may indicate that heading control during the maneuver was primarily by this instrument and not by ground reference points. The spin probably occurred while the pilot was concentrating, or fascinated, on/by the instrument . Possibly not recognizing the accidental spin, back pressure and aileron were applied to stop the rotation but to no avail. This would probably confuse or panic most students momentarily. Then realizing the situation after much altitude had been lost, an attempt to bail-out was initiated. It is conceivable that he grabbed the release handle of the campy while unbuckling the seat belt. The release of the seat belt may have made the operation of the camppy difficult by the loss of leverage through "g" forces acting in different directions than normally experienced. This may have been the reason why the campy was not speried. Had ample time been available, a satisfactory escape could have been performed by use of the emergency escape panel. From 5,000 ft. at 211 ft/sec the time for action would be about 23.6 sec mis. B. Recommendations:
- 1. That pilets and students be continually reminded of proper escape procedures from spinning aircraft.
- 2. That pilots train themselves for a situation such as this and be propored to jump if recovery from a spin is not effected by 5,000 ft. of altitude as required by CMABATRA INSTR 3750.9. Contil on next page

PART IX. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMEND TIONS, Cont'd

3. That radio procedure and air discipline be continually stressed. During emergencies ally known facts must be reported. If information is doubtful, it should be so qualified.

4. That pilets know emer ency precedures and be able to elect crash crows and direct them to the scene of the accident. USE Type Aircraft Emergency Procedure flip charts provided.

18

ENCLOSURE(8) REFERENCE POINT ER LIHGRAIM .12 WEST _.11 10 .30 .14 -.13 ALL BERS MAG. WIND SOUTH

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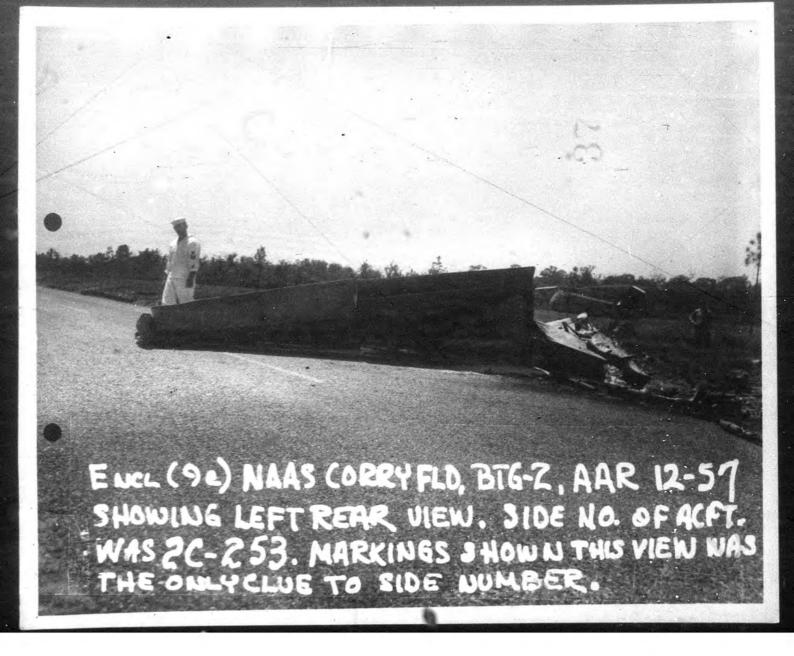
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DIST. SMALL OBJECTS PLEXIGLASS. ETC.

GRASS SE 18KIS

ENCL (94) NAAS CORRY FLD., BTG-2, AARIZT AERIAL VIEW AT APPROXIMATELY, ZHRS FOLLOWING CRASH.





RIGHT SIDE FUSELAGE RUDDER HOR W VERT, 3798.

ENCL (94) NAAS CORRY FLD. BTG-2, AAR 12-57 VIEW FROM RIGHT WING TIP





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10. CLEAR AND CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT AND METHOD USED IN CRASH FIRE AND RESCUE OPERATIONS-Continued.

A crush resons crew consisting of 2 men, with GT2 on igned weapons carefor was at Dandad Field approximately 3 miles from the scene at the time of the crush. The was not observed by this erow, consequently they were measure of the communicate of crush. We attempt was made by airborne aircraft to misst this crus and direct them to the scene. Statement of the petty officer in charge of the Englad Field crush crew is attached barolo.



11. DISTRIBUTION

Original Supervise 1. 3. 1. C.N. Ser Brack (PULKE WOLFS) Ser GROUPERS IN

Origa Baker (SEYLO) Via: CHARM CHARMAN

001

Gorry AND

12. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Standard procedures require that airborne pilots shall eleptial available rescue incilities upon observation of a crush. In the prosent case it would appoin that no such action was taken by any airborne pilot to elect the Begind Field crush crew and direct them to the some. In view of the fast that several aircraft were known to be in the inscilate area at the time of the grash. It may be assumed that the inscilate area at the time of the grash. It may be assumed that the inscilate was observed. Accordingly it is resonanted that the responsibility of airborne pilots to elect available resonanted that the responsibility of airborne pilots to elect available resonanted that the resident training programs of all units of the many basis. No other discrepancies were noted in the conduct of the

13. THE ABOVE ARE TRUE STATEMENTS, BASED ON OPERATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS AT SCENE OF CRASH

SIGNED

IN CHARGE, CRASH
FIRE AND RESCUE

INSTRUCTIONS

COMMANDING
OFFICER.

GENERAL

- 1. A report shall be submitted in every case that the Crash Fire and Rescue Crew answers an alarm involving aircraft.
- 2. Reports shall be prepared promptly and submitted to BuAer within 7 days by the Shore Station, or if the crash crew is a part of a Fleet Unit in an advance area, by the Fleet Unit, Acorn or Marine Air Squadron.
 - 3. Submit photographs of crash and/or fire, if available,
- 4. Submit sketch showing location of crash, location of crash trucks before alarm, route of crash trucks to scene, and other portinent details, if possible.
- 5. include in report any additional enclosures, statements of personnel involved or other data that are considered desirable or that may add to an analysis of the report.

 DETAILED EXPLANATION OF SECTIONS OF FORM
- Sec. 1.—AIRCRAFT MODEL and BUREAU NUMBER are same us called for on NAVAER-339.
- Sec. 2 -- SCENE OF ACCIDENT-Give name of field or approximate location of scene of accident.
- DISTANCE TO SCENE-Give distance from location of crash truck units to scene of crash, in feet or fractional miles.
- Sec. 5. TIME OF ALARM and TIME EIRST APPARATUS ARRIVED should be given to indicate difference in minutes and seconds.

 ELAPSED TIME is from time of alarm to fire out.

 QTY. GASOLINE—Give amount in crashed plane.
- Sec. 6.—List all Fire and Rescue Trucks including any Pumpers, Ambulances, or specially equipped Jeeps, etc., that may respond.
- Sec. 7.—List total number occupants at top and account for all occupants in columns below.
- Sec. 8.—Give brief description in each column and an estimate in dollars, if at all possible.
- Sec. 10.—Continue on separate sheet if necessary. Facts are important
- Sec. 11 -- Add to distribution shown as necessary.
- Sec. 12 -- Any recommendation to correct deficiencies should be noted.

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